Mr. V. B. VAIDYANATHA AYYAR.

The period is three years.

Mr. C. ACHYUTA MENON.

For the member's satisfaction, I may say that Mr. Brown was not paying any rent.

Complaints against the camp clerk of the Excise Superintendent.

Mr. M. K. RAMAN.

194. Will the Government be pleased to furnish the following information:—

(1) Are there any complaints regarding the conduct of the camp clerk of the Excise Superintendent, towards the shop-keepers and the employees in the department? If there are any, how many have complained to the Superintendent, and how many to the Diwan?

(2) What was the nature of the complaints, if any?

(3) How were they disposed of?

(4) Was the present camp clerk an aminadar in the Excise Department in the year 1097?

(5) Was he punished in 1097 for any faults calculated to undermine the State revenue?

(6) If so, what was the punishmen.?

(7) Was he punished for any other faults?

(8) If so, what were they? And what were the punishments?

(9) In 1097 why was he transferred from the Excise to the Magisterial Department?

(10) In 1099 were there any special reasons for bringing him back into the Excise Department?

(11) Has he paid in the year 1100 a sum of Rs. 1,271-2-11 towards his decree debt in O. S. 236/94 of Anjikaimal District Court?

(12) Is there still an attachment on his pay for a sum which exceeds his attachable pay for a period of 24 months so as to offend the provisions of section 61 of the Standing Orders?

(13) If so, has the Superintendent made any report regarding this matter to the Diwan, as required by the Standing Orders?

(14) If the answer for (13) is in the negative, why was it not done?

(15) Has this matter been brought to the present Superintendent's notice by anybody at any time?

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(16) If the answer to (15) is in the affirmative, was any action taken after the information was so obtained?

Mr. V. B. VAIDYANATHA AYYAR.

(1) and (2). The Superintendent and the Diwan have each received a pseudonymous petition stating that his camp clerk was receiving illegal gratifications from the shop-keepers and employees of the department.

(3) As the allegations were found to be false, the petition received by the Superintendent was lodged. The other petition is under enquiry.

(4) Yes.

(5) Yes.

(6) Degradation by one grade, viz., from an aminadar on Rs. 30 to an aminadar on Rs. 25.

(7) Yes.

(8) Illegal arrest for which he was warned.

(9) Because he was appointed by the District Magistrate as a clerk in the Kanayannur Magistrate's Court.

(10) Yes. The Excise Superintendent who had just then assumed charge being new to the department, and this office being in a state of utter confusion, the services of a clerk whom the Superintendent knew well, and in whom he could place confidence, were found necessary. No such clerk was then available to him except the one referred to.

(11) No information. But a sum of Rs. 188-10-11 was sent to the District Court, as per attachment order therefrom on his pay.

(12) No attachment now, as it was withdrawn on 23rd Vrischigam 1101 by the District Judge.

(13) and (14). No. As there was no information about the extent of the decree debt for which the attachment was made, it was not possible to know whether the amount was such as would come under S. O. No. 61.

(15) No.

(16) No answer is called for in view of the reply to (15) above.

Mr. M. K. RAMAN.

Who was the District Magistrate then?

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Mr. V. B. VAIDYANATHA AYYAR.

I think it must have been Mr. Sahasranama Ayyar.

Mr. M. K. RAMAN.

Were there no reliable hands in the office at the time?

PRESIDENT.

Even if there were reliable hands in the office, it was in an utter state of confusion, and so the Superintendent had to search out one.

Mr. M. K. RAMAN.

Why not in the office itself?

PRESIDENT.

He thought of taking one from outside, instead of making a selection from the office staff.

Mr. M. K. RAMAN.

So he recruited one from outside. From the answer, it is seen that he was punished once That will naturally show that much confidence could not be placed in him.

PRESIDENT.

What was the punishment, and why was he punished?

Mr. V. B. VAIDYANATHA AYYAR.

It was not I who punished him. The hand that punished him promoted him within two months.

PRESIDENT.

Did he admit the crime?

Mr. V. B. VAIDYANATHA AYYAR.

The file would show that he was not asked even to give an explanation. The then Superintendent was satisfied, and he promoted him to a post carrying Rs. 30 in the Head Office.

PRESIDENT.

It is a case of reversing the original conclusion. So there was practically no punishment at all. On reconsideration, the punishment was set aside.

Mr. V. B. VAIDYANATHA AYYAR.

The papers show that he was promoted within two months to a post on Rs. 30, and he was posted in the Head Office.

PRESIDENT.

That will show that he was not in any way to blame,

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Mr. M. K. RAMAN.

My supplementary question is whether there were not reliable hands in the Excise Superintendent's Office itself?

Mr. V. B. VAIDYANATHA AYYAR.

I knew no body in the office when I took charge. Further, my hands were not tied as to whom I should appoint as my camp clerk. Nobody's claims were overlooked.

Mr. M. K. RAMAN.

Was the appointment of Ramaswami Ayyar made without seeing what were his antecedents, and whether any punishments were meted out to him before?

PRESIDENT.

I believe then that this thing did not come to his notice.

Mr. V. B. VAIDYANATHA AYYAR.

I found him drawing Rs. 30. He belongs to a respectable family. He was working under me for a long time. I have not heard anything against him.

Mr. M. K. RAMAN

Is it usually the practice that, when appointments are made, the antecedents are not looked into?

Mr. V. B. VAIDYANATHA AYYAR.

Antecedents are looked to, but there was no reason to suspect that there was a bad record against him.

Mr. M. K. RAMAN.

In this case it was not done.

Mr. V. B. VAIDYANATHA AYYAR.

Then I would not have found him there.

Mr. M. K. RAMAN.

Sub-divisions (13) and (14)—did not the attachment show the amount?

Mr. V. B. VAIDYANATHA AYYAR.

That is the difficulty. It did not.

Mr. M. K. RAMAN.

Did the Superintendent write to the Court?

Mr. V. B. VAIDYANATHA AYYAR.

Certainly, it is not my duty to do so.

PRESIDENT.

You should say "yes" or "no", when a question is put.

Mr. V. B. VAIDYANATHA AYYAR.

I did not.

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